

Message Text

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FOR ARA, D, L AND P ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. THE DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF MY JUNE 19 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS WERE REPORTED IN SANTIAGO 4641. ACCORDINGLY, I THINK IT ESSENTIAL AT THIS POINT THAT WE REASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARAGUAYAN AND ITURRIAGA TESTIMONIES. CAN PROPPER GET THE INDICTMENTS HE BELIEVES WARRANTED WITHOUT THEM? ARE THEY NECESSARY FOR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS? WITH RESPECT TO THE PARAGUAYAN TESTIMONY CAN TESTIMONY BY LEGATT SCHERRER SUBSTITUTE ADEQUATELY FOR THE GUANAS' TESTIMONY? IF THE CURRENT JUDGMENT IN WASHINGTON IS THAT THESE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF EVIDENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL BUT ARE NOT ESSENTIAL THEN I RECOMMEND WE LEAVE MATTERS WHERE THEY STAND AND SAVE OUR REMAINING LEVERAGE UNTIL THE ISSUES OF EXTRADITION OR LOCAL PROSECUTION COME TO THE FORE.

2. IF, HOWEVER, THE JUDGEMENT IS THAT ONE OR BOTH ARE NECESSARY, THEN WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE PRESENT GOC POSITION. BUT IN DOING SO, IT SEEMS TO ME CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR PINOCHET TO TURN THIS ISSUE

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TO HIS ADVANTAGE. IN THIS REGARD, WE NEED TO BE VERY CLARE IN OUR OWN MINDS EXACTLY WHAT THE AGREEMENT WAS BETWEEN PROPPER AND THE GOC ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. HAVE WE, IN FACT, PROVIDED ALL THAT WE PROMISED? OR DO CUBILLOS AND FERNANDEZ HAVE A VALID POINT WHEN THEY SAY WE ARE HOLDING BACK? IF THE LATTER, IS THERE ANYTHING OF VALUE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

3. THE QUESTION OF WHO HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH WHOM WILL BECOME IMPORTANT WHEN AND IF WE DECIDE TO GO PUBLIC WITH OUR STATEMENT OF NON-COOPERATION ON THE ITURRIAGA AND PARAGUAYAN REQUESTS. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I ANTICIPATE AN IMMEDIATE SCATHING RESPONSE FROM THE GOC ARGUING, WITH SUBSTANTIAL LOCAL CREDIBILITY, THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING THAN HAVE WE AND THAT OUR STATEMENT OF NON-COOPERATION IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. IF WE GO THE PUBLIC STATEMENT ROUTE WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO COUNTER THAT ARGUMENT, AT LEAST WITHIN INFORMED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CIRCLES. MORE BASICALLY, I HAVE JUST ABOUT BECOME PERSUADED THAT A PUBLIC DECLARATION ON NON-COOPERATION MIGHT WELL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. IT IS CERTAIN TO RECEIVE MUCH THE SAME TREATMENT IN THE LOCAL MEDIA AS THE RECENT "WASHINGTON POST" EDITORIAL. THE GOC WILL USE IT TO WHIP UP NATIONALISTIC EMOTIONS AND THUS STRENGTHEN PINOCHET'S POSITION INTERNALLY.

4. IF AS IS LIKELY, THIS ISSUE IS RAISED BY CUBILLOS IN THE JUNE 21 MEETING, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MIGHT WANT TO SAY, THAT IN VIEW OF THE APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG OROZCO, PROPPER AND THE FBI AGENTS AS TO PRECISELY WHAT HAD BEEN PROMISED TO OROZCO, IT MIGHT BE BEST IF OROZCO WERE TO COME TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY WHERE HE COULD OBTAIN ALL INFORMATION PROMISED TO HIM PREVIOUSLY.

5. IF IT IS DECIDED THAT WE STILL NEED THE ITURRIAGA AND PARAGUAYAN TESTIMONIES, AND IF THE MEETING OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
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WITH CUBILLOS JUNE 21 DOES NOT PRDUCE THE DESIRED COOPERATION, THEN I RECOMMEND THAT I BE RECALLED TO WASHINGTON FOR ONE WEEK'S CONSULTATION BEGINNING JUNE 26. MY RECALL WILL SIGNAL THE GOC THAT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THE STATUS QUO. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT I BE IN WASHINGTON FOR THE DECISIONS ON WHAT MEASURES WE TAKE THEREAFTER TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN THE NEEDED COOPERATION.

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